

PLAYABLE CHARACTER BACKGROUND

KEEPER OF THE DEAD



BY E. JOHNSEY



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KEEPER OF THE DEAD

You are a scholar of a unique sort - a student in the study of death. You have spent years under the tutelage of a shadowy society known as the Keepers, and were initiated into their ranks. Keepers are at their core historians, knowledgeable in identifying the dead and the causes, mechanisms, and manners of death.

Being a Keeper gains you some prestige and recognition with those in authority; perhaps you use your status for the noble cause of recording the lives of citizens through their deaths. Or perhaps your studies were all for the less noble pursuit of selling the locations of graves to the highest bidder, or plundering their treasures for yourself.

Skill Proficiencies: History, Investigation

Tool Proficiencies: Calligrapher's supplies or Mason's tools

Languages: One relating to your school of study

Equipment: A book enchanted to ever-expand containing your notes as a Keeper, a set of detailed maps corresponding to your notes, common clothes, and the gold pin of a Keeper.

SCHOOL OF STUDY

As a Keeper of the Dead, your studies required you to choose a school of study surrounding a race and their culture of death. Your school lends you proficiency in recalling that race's ideas and practices of death and identifying the locations and characteristics of their burials. Choose one or roll on the table below to define your school of study.

d8	School	d8	School
1	Human	5	Elven
2	Infernal	6	Halfling
3	Dwarven	7	Gnomian
4	Draconic	8	Orc

FEATURE: DEATH'S SCHOLAR

Years of study have made you an expert in discerning the finer details of how death occurs. When you investigate a body or burial, you are able to identify the deceased or the cause, mechanism, and manner of their death. If the body or burial is within your school of study, you are able to discern both the identity of the dead and the aspects of their death.

SUGGESTED CHARACTERISTICS

Keepers walk hand-in-hand with death. For some, this has made them empathetic and sensitive to grief. For others, this has made them forget the solemnity surrounding the dead, to the point of recalling grotesque burials over dinner conversation. No two Keepers treat death the same way, though they each find respect for their studies in their own fashion.

Becoming a Keeper of the Dead does not strictly involve religion, though most Keepers do have a favored deity of choice. A Keeper may be a worshiper of any god or goddess, particularly one of death.

d8 Personality Trait

- 1 Even though I understand it, I fear death now more than ever.
- 2 A dead person is a dead person, no matter who they were in life.
- 3 I try to honor and respect every body or burial I come across.
- 4 I have no patience for strong emotion concerning death.
- 5 I'd much rather spend my time with the dead than the living.
- 6 I have no fear of death now that I understand it.
- 7 I am fascinated with death, and contemplate it all the time.
- 8 I mourn every death that touches my life.

d6 Ideal

- 1 **Wisdom.** If I understand death, then I can truly understand life. *(Neutral)*
- 2 **Knowledge.** I will learn all I can, no matter what. *(Chaotic)*
- 3 **Prestige.** I will use my skills to make a name for myself. *(Any)*
- 4 **Exploitation.** They're not around to miss it, but I'm here to enjoy it. *(Evil)*
- 5 **Honor.** I will preserve the memory of those that are gone. *(Good)*
- 6 **Justice.** I will make sure people are accountable for death. *(Lawful)*

d6 Bond

- 1 I watched someone close to me die when I was young, and I've been searching for answers ever since.
- 2 No one judges me when I do my job.
- 3 By looking at what is gone, I can understand what is to come.
- 4 There is so much we don't know, and I want to be the one to discover it.
- 5 I want to regain my family's honor by proving we're not murderers.
- 6 I want to prove everyone wrong. Even a freak can make a noble living.

d6 Flaw

- 1 Sometimes I become overwhelmed by all the things I've seen and done.
- 2 I'm constantly afraid I don't really know what I'm doing.
- 3 I'm convinced I know it all.
- 4 I forget that there are real consequences to what I do.
- 5 I know this is a selfless trade, and yet I want to be famous.
- 6 I act like I know more than I actually do.